

Essential Question:

Using textual evidence,  
explain how the mood of the play shifts in  
Act III.

Questions:

Notes:

Act III, Scene i:

- More trouble between the families to open act III
- Mercutio provokes Tybalt > Tybalt insults Mercutio and Romeo > Romeo ignores insults, so Mercutio fights Tybalt
- Tybalt stabs Mercutio and runs away
- Mercutio dies, but not after wishing 'A plague on both your houses'
- Romeo, blaming himself, challenges Tybalt to a duel and kills him.
- Benvolio tells Romeo to run before the Prince captures him.
- After hearing what happened, the Prince spares Romeo's life, but banishes him from Verona.

Act III, Scene ii:

- Juliet learns what happened from her nurse
- Forced to choose between the cousin she has loved her whole life and her new husband, she chooses Romeo.
- After telling Juliet that Romeo has been banished from Verona, the nurse promises to find Romeo, so that Juliet can at least say goodbye.

Act III, Scene iii:

- Romeo is hiding at Friar Laurence's where the nurse finds him.
- The Friar comes up with a plan: R and J can have one night together before R leaves Verona. He promises they'll be able to figure out a way to have the Prince pardon Romeo so he can return.

Act III, Scene iv:

- Paris is still hoping to marry Juliet. 'These times of woe allow no time to woo.'
- Juliet's father changes his mind about waiting a few years before she is married.
- He asks Paris to marry Juliet later that week. Neither is aware that she is already married. Not good!

Summary:

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Act III, Scene V:

- R and J wake up from their night together and both worry that they'll never see each other again.
- Juliet's mother tells her that in two days she'll marry Paris.
- She tells both of her parents that she won't marry Paris.
- Lord Capulet threatens to kick her to the curb.
- Lady Capulet and her nurse won't support her either.
- She feels hopeless and alone and begins to think of suicide as (perhaps) her only option.

"If all else fails, myself have power to die."

Summary: